

Appl. No. : 08/779,457
Filed : January 7, 1997

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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying an agonist WSX receptor antibody with a strong binding affinity~~which decreases body weight or fat depot weight or food intake in an obese animal~~, comprising the steps of
 - (a) producing one or more agonist antibodies which specifically bind to the extracellular domain of a receptor having a WSX motif comprising the extracellular domain sequence within SEQ ID NO:2, and
 - (b) selecting ~~the~~ an agonist antibody ~~antibodies~~ produced in step (a) which induce a statistically significant decrease in body weight or fat depot weight or food intake in an obese animal ~~binds to said extracellular domain with a Kd of no more than about 1×10^{-7} M~~
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said antibody decreases body weight or fat-depot weight or food intake in an *ob/ob* obese animal ~~is an *ob/ob* mouse~~.
3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said antibodies produced in step (a) specifically bind to human receptor variant 13.2 (SEQ ID NO:2).
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~antibodies produced in step (a) bind to the extracellular domain of said receptor having a WSX motif with a Kd is of no more than about 1×10^{-8} M.~~
5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein said Kd is no more than about 1×10^{-7} M.
6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said antibodies also bind to murine receptor having a WSX motif.
7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said antibodies produced in step (a) have an IC50 in a KIRA ELISA of about 0.5 μ g/ml or less.
8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said antibodies have an IC50 in a KIRA ELISA of about 0.2 μ g/ml or less.
- 9 - 10 (Previously Cancelled)
11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said antibodies bind to the epitope bound by an antibody selected from the group consisting of 2D7 (ATCC

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Accession Number HB-12249), 1G4 (ATCC Accession Number HB-12243), 1E11 (ATCC Accession Number HB-12248) and 1C11 (ATCC Accession Number HB-12250).

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said antibodies have complementarity determining region (CDR) residues from an antibody selected from the group consisting of 2D7 (ATCC Accession Number HB-12249), 1G4 (ATCC Accession Number HB-12243), 1E11 (ATCC Accession Number HB-12248) and 1C11 (ATCC Accession Number HB-12250).

13.-21. (Previously Withdrawn)

22. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said antibodies produce in step (a) comprises hypervariable region residues of clone 3 antibody (SEQ ID NO: 48).

23.-24. (Previously Withdrawn)

25. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said antibodies produced in step (a) are monoclonal antibodies.

26. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said antibodies produced in step (a) is a human antibody.

27. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said antibodies produced in step (a) is a humanized antibody.

28. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said antibodies produced in step (a) is an antibody fragment.

29. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said antibody fragment is an F(ab')₂.

30-33 (Previously Withdrawn)